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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, abide with our lawmakers. Make them so aware of Your presence that the faithful may be blessed, the sad may be comforted, the depressed may be encouraged, the ungrateful may give thanks, and the perplexed may understand. May companionship with You enable our Senators to be guided by Your providence.

Speak to the successful and keep them from pride. Speak to those who are too self-confident and keep them from falling. Speak to those who are so sure of their position that they are certain that everyone else is wrong. Lord, keep them from intolerance. From day to day, guard us from anything that brings shame, so that in the eventide of life, when our task is done, we may see the smile of Your approval. We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 25, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CARDIN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this morning there will be an hour of morning business, with the first half controlled by the majority and the second half controlled by the Republicans. Following morning business, we will resume consideration of S. 761. Under an agreement entered last night, once we get back on the bill, there will be 30 minutes of debate with respect to the Sununu amendment, which is numbered 938, which strikes a section of the bill seeking to strengthen science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education at all school levels. We expect the amendment will be voted on at a little after 11 this morning. My understanding is once we dispose of the Sununu amendment, then the Sanders amendment remains pending.

Mr. President, let me say to everyone, I have not had the opportunity to speak to the Republican leader today, but it would be my intention that we would be in recess from 4 until 5:30 for the briefings by General Petraeus, General Pace, and others up in room 407. But it would be my intention to finish this bill after that.

It is my understanding there are some Coburn amendments—he has three of them—and we would like to get votes scheduled on those. If there are other amendments, let's bring them forward. But we will not get the bill from the House on the supplemental until tonight, anyway. We are not going to be able to do anything on it tonight. I think it would be a good step forward if we can finish this bill tonight. That means we would work on it until late in the evening and finish this bill. That is my intention. I hope there are no efforts to delay this bill. If, in fact, that is the case, as I have said before, we would just back off the bill. If we cannot pass, on a bipartisan basis, legislation that has more than 50 cosponsors, I think it is not a good day for us. We should be able to show the American people there are some things we can do on a bipartisan basis.

I remind all Members that there will be a briefing today, as I have indicated, in 407 beginning at 4 p.m.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for 60 minutes, with Senators permitted to speak therein, with the first 30 minutes under the control of the majority and the final 30 minutes under the control of the Republicans.

The Senator from Ohio is recognized.

TRADE AGREEMENTS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, last week our colleague, Senator BYRON DORGAN, chairman of the Commerce

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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